

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination and appropriate fee in reply to the final Office Action dated July 24, 2007. Claims 1, 12, 14-17, 19-26 currently stand rejected. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claim 13 is allowed and that claims 6-8 and 11 include allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 12, 14, 16 and 19-26 to incorporate allowable subject matter from one of claims 6-8 and 11. Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 6 has been canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added by the amendment.

In light of the amendment and the remarks presented below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all now-pending claims of the present application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 12, 14-17 and 19-26 currently stand rejected as being either anticipated or unpatentable over Laurikka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,996, hereinafter "Laurikka").

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 6. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Laurikka at least by virtue of the addition of allowable subject matter thereto. Claim 6 has been canceled due to its incorporation into independent claim 1.

Applicant has also amended independent claims 12, 14, 16 and 19-26 to include allowable subject matter from one of the allowable claims 6-8 and 11. In this regard, independent claims 12, 20 and 24 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 7, independent claims 14, 21 and 25 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 8, independent claims 16, 22 and 26 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 11, and independent claims 19 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 6. Accordingly, amended independent claims 12, 14, 16 and 19-26 are patentable over Laurikka at least by virtue of the addition of allowable subject matter thereto.

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Claims 15 and 17 depend directly from independent claims 14 and 16, respectively and thus include all the recitations of their respective independent claims. Dependent claims 15 and 17 are therefore patentable for the same reasons given above for their respective independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1, 12, 14-17 and 19-26 are overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present invention.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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